

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /112 W

----- 123251

R 170005Z JAN 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1252

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0090

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN IMPRESSIONS OF WUHAN AND CHANGSHA

1. AUSTRALIAN DCM COTTRILL RECENTLY RETURNED TO PEKING FROM OFFICIAL VISIT TO WUHAN AND CHANGSHA. (HE ALSO REQUESTED KWEILIN BUT WAS TURNED DOWN.) FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS IMPRESSIONS CONVEYED TO USLO OFFICER JANUARY 15.

2. BIG CHARACTER POSTERS - COTTRILL SAID WUHAN WAS FULL OF BIG CHARACTER POSTERS, AND ALTHOUGH HE WAS ASKED NOT TO PHOTOGRAPH THEM, HIS HOSTS MADE NO EFFORT TO STEER HIM AWAY FROM OR PREVENT HIM FROM READING THEM. AT LEAST ONE POSTER ATTACKED FORMER WUHAN REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER TSENG TZU-YU, CHARGING THAT TSENG HAD MADE ERRORS OF LINE AND MUST BE BROUGHT TO PUBLIC TRIAL TO EXPLAIN. COTTRILL VISITED A FACTORY WHICH CLEARLY HAD BEEN HAVING LABOR TROUBLES. THERE WERE SEVERAL POSTERS REFERRING TO A DECEMBER 25 INCIDENT AND DEMANDING INVESTIGATION BY THE CENTER. OTHER POSTERS DECLARED THAT VARIOUS COMRADES WERE PROLETARIAN WORKERS

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AND GOOD PARTY MEMBERS AND SHOULD BE RELEASED. DURING

ONE DRIVE THROUGH THE CITY COTTRILL NOTED HANDWRITTEN WALL NEWSPAPER WHICH RAN TO FORTY SHEETS BUT WAS UNABLE TO READ CONTENTS.

3. WUHAN ATMOSPHERE - COTTRILL SAID HE FOUND WUHAN A TOUGH, TENSE CITY, NOTING AS EXAMPLE THAT WUHAN BRIDGE IS GUARDED BY ABOUT TEN PLA DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS AND FIFTEEN OR MORE AT NIGHT. HE OBSERVED SEVERAL OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE STREET GANGS, INCLUDING ONE GROUP OF TOUGHS WHO MARCHED DOWN THE MIDDLE OF A STREET DARING PSB OFFICIALS TO TRY AND MOVE THEM OFF. ON ANOTHER OCCASION HE SAW YOUTHS APPARENTLY PUMMELING A PSB OFFICIAL. COTTRILL NOTED A FRESHLY PAINTED SIGN IDENTIFYING WUHAN "MUNICIPAL MILITIA HEADQUARTERS."

4. WUHAN UNIVERSITY - IN CONTRAST TO CITY PROPER, HE FOUND WUHAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS QUIET, WITH STUDENTS APPARENTLY ATTENDING CLASSES REGULARLY. UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS TOLD HIM ANTI-CONFUCIAN CAMPAIGN IN PROGRESS, BUT COTTRILL SAW NO BIG CHARACTER POSTERS. HE WAS TOLD THAT ANTI-CONFUCIAN CAMPAIGN WAS NOT EXPECTED TO DIE OUT IN NEAR FUTURE, AND UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS PREDICTED THAT IT WOULD SPREAD INTO OTHER FIELDS OF ACTIVITY. THEY ALSO SAID THAT FENG YU-LAN WAS STILL NOT OUT OF THE WOODS AND THEY EXPECTED FURTHER SELF-CRITICISM FROM HIM "AND THE GROUP AROUND HIM AT PEKING UNIVERSITY."

5. CHANGSHA - IN CONTRAST WITH WUHAN, COTTRILL FOUND CHANGSHA EASYGOING AND REFLECTIVE OF THE AGRICULTURAL AREA IT SERVES. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, HE WAS TOLD THAT NONE AVAILABLE SINCE MANY IN COUNTRYSIDE VISITING PLA TROOPS AND REMAINDER OCCUPIED WITH "SEVEN PROVINCE REGIONAL GRAIN CONFERENCE" THEN IN SESSION.
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